



Nevada Fire Marshal Division

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EXISTING ADULT GROUP CARE FACILITIES: Performance Based Alternate Methods of Design

Scope:

This Variance Request Application process shall only be applicable to those facilities meeting ALL of the following requirements:

1. The facility is currently licensed as a Residential Facilities for Groups (Adult Group Care), as defined by NRS 449.017 through the Nevada State Health Department;
2. The facility is currently operating with residents that are not capable of self-preservation, as designated by State Health as being Category 2 (NAC 449.1595);
3. The facility was previously approved by the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division as either a Group R-3 or R-4 occupancy, as noted on the Certificate of Compliance issued by this agency.

This Variance Request approval will allow the facility to operate as a modified Group R-4 occupancy type under a performance based design alternate to the prescriptive requirements for Group I-2 adult group care facilities.

Directions:

- The Nevada State Fire Marshal Division Variance Request Application for this process may be completed by either a Nevada licensed General Contractor or registered design professional (architect or engineer) licensed to practice within the State of Nevada.
- The Nevada State Fire Marshal Division Variance Request packet submitted for this process must include at minimum of two (02) copies of the following:
 - A completed Nevada State Fire Marshal Division Variance Request Application, with the design narrative acknowledging and detailing compliance with the below Mandatory Compliance Items. Your design professional may copy the language of the Mandatory Compliance Items for insertion into the Variance Request Application
 - Mark the applicable boxes in the Performance Based Alternate Methods of Design Matrix. Detach the Performance Based Alternate Methods of Design Matrix and submit with the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division Variance Request Application packet.
 - Site Plan (11 x 17 minimum size)
 - Existing Floor Plan (11 x 17 minimum size)
 - Proposed Floor Plan (11 x 17 minimum size)

NOTE: Additional paper or electronic copies of the submittal packet may be requested as needed.

- All Variance Request Applications will be forwarded by the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division staff to the local authority having jurisdiction for comment. The local authority having jurisdiction may include the local fire agency and/or building department.
- Once the Variance Request Application is approved, it is the responsibility of the applicant to secure all required permits through the local fire agency and/or building department, as applicable.
- The Nevada State Fire Marshal Division will perform a final inspection to verify compliance with the conditions of the Variance Request for the facility. Upon inspection approval, a new Certificate of Compliance (C of C) will be issued for the facility, which notes the occupancy type as a "Modified Group R-4 per NSFM Variance Request".
- A copy of the approved Variance Request must be kept within the facility, and be made available upon request by any regulatory agency having jurisdictional authority over the facility. This may include, but not be limited to staff from State Health, Nevada State Fire Marshal Division and/or the local fire agency.

Mandatory Compliance Items:

1. Automatic sprinkler system installed in conformance with NFPA 13D standard. (Local fire agencies may be more restrictive and require an NFPA 13R compliant system as a minimum, which will add to your point score.)
2. No smoking or open flames within the facility. This shall be posted as a written policy in the common area of the facility for review by the residents and staff. Also, this policy shall be discussed and made known to all incoming residents of the facility.
3. Evacuation floor plans shall be posted in the common area of the facility and within each resident sleeping room.
4. The facility shall be equipped with a minimum of two (2) accessible means of egress (unless additional exits are required by the adopted version of the International Fire Code).
5. All resident sleeping rooms shall have an opening directly to the exterior. This may be either a building/fire code compliant emergency escape and rescue window or a door.
6. A minimum of one (1) listed, NFPA 10 compliant portable fire extinguisher
7. Monthly fire/emergency evacuation drills shall be conducted, with a log maintained that clearly indicates the area of the simulated fire or simulated emergency, number of occupants evacuated, with an accurate time taken to completely evacuate the facility. During inclement weather, a shelter-in-place emergency drill accounting for all residents and staff may be substituted, but no more than three (3) such emergency drills shall be counted within one (1) calendar year.
8. Formal evacuation procedures shall be written and maintained for review by Nevada State Fire Marshal Division staff upon request. The evacuation procedures shall clearly provide direction to staff as to how to assist the patients with the evacuation. In addition, the procedure shall clearly indicate the areas of refuge outside of the facility, either at an area in the public right-of-way or a safe dispersal area, which is a minimum of 50'-0" (fifty-feet) away from the building.
9. Approved off-site monitoring of the fire alarm system including smoke detection, manual pull station and sprinkler water flow alarms.
10. All portions the building's egress system must be accessible in accordance with NAC 449.154931 and the Nevada State Fire Marshal Division's adopted codes. This includes doors, halls and ramps at changes in elevation.

Performance Based Alternate Methods of Design Matrix

Please an “x” in the box marked as “Method Used” for the applicable alternate method of design proposals, which will convert your facility to a Modified Group R-4 Occupancy; you must have a minimum score of four (04) points to qualify.

Alternate Method #	Alternate Methods of Design Proposal	Point Value	Method Used
A1	Automatic sprinkler system installed in conformance with NFPA 13 standard	4-points	
A2	Automatic sprinkler system installed in conformance with NFPA 13R standard	3-points	
A3	All patient sleeping rooms have grade level exit doors to the exterior of the facility.	2-points	
A4	Complete compartmentalized of all sleeping rooms comprised of the following elements: (Both A4a and A4b, below)	2-points	
A4a	Walls and ceiling must not communicate with neighboring spaces and be covered with a minimum of ½” gypsum wall board with all penetrations protected.	1-point	
A4b	Door(s) opening into all sleeping rooms from hallways or common areas shall be a minimum of 1-3/8” solid core or 20-minute rated.	1-point	
A5	Means of egress illumination within all hallways and common areas of the facility. Egress illumination is not required within the individual patient rooms. The egress illumination shall comply with the prescriptive requirements of the International Fire Code.	1-point	
A6	Additional approved exit doors complying with the International Fire Code that exceed the above two (2) minimum per facility (or exceed a larger number if such number is required by the International Fire Code).	1-point	
A7	A back yard that allows direct access to a public right-of-way, or approved area of refuge. Such areas of refuge must be a minimum of 50'-0” from building. The occupants must exit through an approved rear or side exit discharge door, and then be capable of traveling directly to the public right-of-way, or area of refuge, without traveling back within 20-feet of the facility.	1-point	